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# DRUM

The official publication of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services



**DECEMBER 2006**



## Commissioner's message

Many things have challenged the Tri-Service in 2006 and the December edition of *The Drum* allows me, as usual, to reflect on some of these challenges and other notable achievements.

Perhaps the most significant challenges were the emergency situations brought about by heavy rain and flooding in the Katherine and Daly River regions, and the impact of tropical cyclone Monica. Both occurred in April and immediately followed tropical cyclone Larry in Queensland. Once again, the cooperative working relationship between the three arms of the Tri-Service came to the fore during all stages of planning, responding and assisting in recovery efforts. Once again, special thanks must go to members of the Northern Territory Emergency Service.

In May, we saw the first Tri-Service Investiture ceremony involving the award of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service Medal. The ceremony was a great occasion for members of the Fire and Rescue Service; one which was proudly supported by fire fighters and their families alike. The Numbulwar police station was also officially opened in May.

Forty-five years of women in policing in the Northern Territory was celebrated in June with a street march, reception and official dinner. Historical displays and the presence of several former and retired members reinforced the important role played by women in the Northern Territory Police Force over several decades.

During the months of July to August, my wife and I visited several remote communities and in some cases, hosted a barbecue for members and their families. Bush police do a tremendous job day in and day out, with several crisis situations dealt with during the year. I place on record my admiration for the way bush members go about their duties and thank them for their perseverance.

September was marked by the National Police Remembrance Day dedication ceremony in Canberra. The Northern Territory Police Force was proudly represented and our members were a standout in their tunics and bush hats. It was a wonderful day for policing and a proud one for the families of police officers who have died in the course of their duties.

The Mutitjulu police post was officially opened in November and the two Aboriginal Community Police Officers will work closely with Yulara police to improve policing services to the community. White Ribbon Day was held on 26 November to coincide with the United Nations day for the elimination of violence against women. I was again invited to speak on this issue and used the opportunity to explain the enormous amount of work the police force has put into tackling domestic violence. Police initiated orders have increased by over 100 per cent, and police detected breaches of these orders by almost the same percentage, since we launched the strategy two years ago.

December marked International Volunteer Day and a celebration of volunteering across the Territory by people from all walks of life, while the traditional Fire and Rescue Service Christmas party for pensioners was held on Sunday 17 December. Dedicated traffic policing in Darwin and Alice Springs was also introduced and coincided with the launch of the Christmas road safety campaign.

On behalf of my wife, Cynthia and I, best wishes to all members of the Tri-Service for a safe and joyous festive season.

**PAUL WHITE, APM**  
Commissioner of Police  
CEO of Fire and Emergency Services

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*The Drum* is the official magazine of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

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#### FRONT COVER:

Senior Fire Fighter Melanie Goehr and Fire Fighter Michael Lew Fatt

#### CENTREFOLD:

Photos of the Northern Territory Police contingent in Canberra for the dedication of the National Police Memorial

#### BACK COVER:

Drug Detector Dog Scent searches a car for illegal substances

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# Northern Territory Police has top female investigator

By Hayley Dwyer

Photo courtesy NT News

**Detective Senior Sergeant Megan Rowe won Most Outstanding Female Investigator in the Australasian Council of Women and Policing's Excellence in Policing Awards at a gala dinner presentation in Wellington, New Zealand.**

The Most Outstanding Female Investigator Award required demonstrated outstanding performance in many areas with a particular focus on improving how criminal investigations respond to crimes against women and how it deals with female offenders, mentoring and guiding other women in criminal investigations and enhancing the profile and professionalism of women in policing.

Megan was second in charge of the investigation management of the Falconio Murder Investigation and says this is one of the highlights of her career.

"I compiled the prosecution file and assisted with the development of the electronic brief of evidence used in the newly constructed electronic courtroom at the Darwin Supreme Court," she said.

## significant achievements

Megan's other significant achievements include the fact that she assisted throughout the trial, including with the witness support of the Falconio family and Joanne Lees. In addition she identified and utilised a more efficient

"It is a fantastic personal achievement but it is also good for the NT Police to be recognised throughout the Australasian region."

Det Snr Sgt Megan Rowe

method of computer based case management for the Murdoch case. This system is widely accepted and is now a standard operating procedure for the management of serious crime.

"Receiving this award is a great honour. It is a fantastic personal achievement but it is also good for the NT Police to be recognised throughout the Australasian region."

Megan has been a Northern Territory police officer for 20 years, with a broad range of policing experience in rural and urban centres. She is currently the Officer in Charge of Tennant Creek Police Station, making her the most senior woman serving in the Southern Command.

The awards are an opportunity for the Australasian Council of Women and Policing to publicly acknowledge and reward the achievements of the women and men who are making policing better for women. They are an important recognition for the exceptional women and men who are making a real difference to policing.



# Mutitjulu Police post opening

The federally-funded police post at Mutitjulu was officially opened in November writes **Theresa Kuilboer**

**The \$2.3 million Mutitjulu complex consists of two three-bedroom houses, a Visiting Officers Quarters and a police post, including holding cells.**

The Commonwealth Government decided to build the police post following national interest in the many problems facing the community.

## petrol sniffing

Problems of petrol sniffing, sex assaults and domestic violence as well as alcohol abuse were highlighted for many months through the media, instigating a government initiative to provide facilities for police to be based in the community.

On 28 October, Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough officially opened the new facility.

Also in attendance were NT Police Minister Chris Burns, NT Police Commissioner Paul White, Member

for MacDonnell Alison Anderson, NT Police Commander Southern Region Mark Coffey and Superintendent Southern Division Michael White.

During the official opening, artist Rennae Kulitja presented the NT Police Commissioner with a painting marking the occasion.

Two Aboriginal Community Police Officers have been appointed to the Mutitjulu Police Post.

ACPOs Carmella Gray and David McCarthy began their duties in October.

Carmella said she was excited by the challenges that lay ahead.

## good relationship

"I'm very keen to develop a good relationship with the community, and to make a real difference to the people living at Mutitjulu. I see domestic violence as a real problem in the community and also alcohol abuse.

"I want the people in the community to know we are here for them and to feel safe in knowing they can come to us with any problems."

ACPO David McCarthy will bring his wife and five children to live in the community and says that he, too, is looking forward to the prospect of making a real difference to the people who live at Mutitjulu.

Carmella and David will be supported by a sergeant and three constables based at nearby Yulara.

At the opening it was announced that an additional constable will soon be appointed to Yulara to act as a liaison officer for Mutitjulu.

## NT Police officers prepare for overseas deployment

Two NT Police Officers are preparing for deployment to the Solomon Islands following the recent return from Timor Leste of Senior Constable Ben Williams and Constable Michael Deutrom.

The officers, Senior Constable Michelle Meurant from the Drug Enforcement Section and Senior Constable John Bowen from Major Organised Crime will commence duties in Honiara in March.

Michelle and John are part of a deployment of Territory members to international posts, having been seconded to the Australian Federal Police under the International Deployment Group program.

Both members have served at remote localities during their NT service.



**ABOVE L to R:** Senior Constable Tony Schmidt, Mutitjulu artist Rennae Kulitja, Commander Mark Coffey, Commissioner Paul White and Mrs Cynthia White. Rennae and some of the other Mutitjulu artists painted the artwork to commemorate the opening of the new police post.

# Commendations for Wadeye members

***A recent regional visit to Wadeye gave the Commissioner the opportunity to present a Certificate of Appreciation to five members in recognition of their perseverance and commitment to duty in tackling crime and disorder problems within the community between 27 April and 4 May this year.***

Members Sergeant Shane Taylor, Senior Constable Ainsley Phipps, Senior Constable Tyron Bellman, Constable 1/C Matthew Ridolfi and

Constable Karl Bauman received high praise from the Commissioner for their efforts.

*"As Wadeye police officers you responded tactfully and with considerable restraint. Your overall effort in restoring peace and good order to the Wadeye community reflects highly on your integrity as police officers and the reputation of the Northern Territory Police Force."*

During the period, Wadeye police were required to uphold the

law at a time when gang related fights erupted and some in the community armed themselves with various offensive weapons and engaged in conflict as a means to settle long running disputes.

weapons

Members were required to respond to these problems and to deal with instances of criminal behaviour at all hours, including an incident on 3 May when approximately 300 community men took to the main street armed with weapons including spears, rocks and metal bars.

While no one was seriously injured during the riotous behaviour, police officers were confronted with many difficult and tense situations, eventually restoring calm and arresting more than 32 persons for offences relating to participation in a riot, affray and being armed in a public place.



**LEFT:** Commissioner Paul White presents Sergeant Shane Taylor with the Certificate of Appreciation



**ABOVE L to R:** Constable Andrew Taylor, Constable Matthew Ridolfi, Sergeant Shane Taylor, S/Constable Ainsley Phipps, Commissioner Paul White, Constable Bradley Fox, Constable Karl Bauman and Assistant Commissioner Mark Payne

# Ray's career full of memorable moments

By Theresa Kuilboer

**Detective Senior Constable Ray Farrow began his policing career in May 1974 in Darwin and since that time has served in Darwin General Duties, Darwin CIB, the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and most recently in Drugs Intelligence Unit in Alice Springs.**

When he was just a few months into his career, Ray found himself on evening shift in the Darwin Watch House – just as cyclone Tracy was making its way towards land.

"When my partner and I finished our shift at midnight, we went to his place at Wagaman to tell his wife there was no danger and she could get the Christmas presents from downstairs," Ray said.

"As I was standing on the veranda looking out at the weather I noticed the rain was coming down horizontally, so we decided we'd better get out of there. We still didn't think it was too bad, until we went around the first corner and found an entire roof blocking the road.

"We finally got back to the station in Mitchell Street, even though it was a struggle driving down Trower Road with the force of the wind."

For the next several weeks Ray and his partner spent their days trying to stop looters. Police were armed with shotguns to deter thieves and spent their day patrolling the streets and liaising with shopkeepers.

"We did have one funny experience during that time. Because we had these new shotguns, my partner was chatting to a sporting goods owner and showing it to him when it accidentally went off, blowing up the guy's counter. Luckily no one was hurt."

Ray transferred to the Traffic Unit in the latter part of the 70s and stayed there until about 1980 when he was stationed at Howard Springs.

"In those days there were two of us stationed in a caravan in the car

park of the shopping centre. We had to use the toilet at the shopping centre and we had a power lead running along the ground from the complex. When it rained the roof of the caravan would leak, so they provided us with a tarp. That was fine until someone pinched both the tarp and the power lead one night."

After a year he was posted to the new day office at Fred's Pass where he stayed until 1983.

After a few years in GDs in Darwin he transferred to CIB before going



to Alice Springs in 1987 as a member of the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (BCI).

"In those days there was one member in the BCI and one member in the Drugs Squad—even though they were two separate sections."

In about 1990 the two units amalgamated and when there were eventually four members in the unit it became the Drugs Intelligence Unit.

One of the highlights of his career in Southern Region was a drug bust in which police seized 50 000 Ecstasy tablets from a room at the Erldunda Road house, south of Alice Springs.

"We estimated at the time they probably had a street value of \$2.5 million, so that was a good job."

While in Darwin CIB one of the more unusual cases Ray worked on was the apprehension of a shoplifter.

"This woman and her co-offender had a shoplifting business going. We estimate they stole about \$75 000 worth of gear from supermarkets in the Darwin area. They were stealing all the gear, packing it up and selling it on the black market both here and overseas."

"They'd also fill up a pram with stuff, take it home, then come back the next day and ask for a refund. We figured they got about \$20 000 to \$30 000 worth of cash that way. They surprising thing is they had no record, but they both got terms of imprisonment. They were both married women with grown up kids who were apparently just planning for the future."

Another memorable moment was a riot near the old Parliament House in which the then Chief Minister was attacked by protesters.

"I had the job of getting him back to the Legislative Assembly after the crowd turned nasty. I got a bit of a clobbering, but we managed to identify seven offenders and arrested them all. The whole lot got convicted."

Ray retired on 14 November and he's returned to Darwin where he'll spend his time between there and Thailand.

For the past few years Ray has travelled extensively in Asia and is looking forward to being able to spend more time in the country he's grown to love.

In the meantime, he's coming to grips with the idea of retirement.

"As the time approaches it's starting to set in. With retirement your comfort zone isn't there anymore. You sort of have direction and purpose when you're working."

As for whether he'd ever re-join the police?

"Will I come back? No. My used by date is well and truly over."

# Squad 86 graduation

By Sharon Hutton

***With the recent graduation of another 24 recruits from the College, police numbers continue to rise.***

The latest graduates range in age from 22 to 46 and include a helicopter pilot, security guard, a construction worker, Defence Force personnel, three Police Auxiliaries and a hotel manager.

The Rod Evans Memorial Trophy for the highest academic achievement in Squad 86 was awarded to Mark Berry, 28, formerly of Gunnedah NSW who will be posted to Alice Springs.

Boyd McMahon, 39, received the Commissioner's Trophy as the best overall course performer in academic, practical and physical training. He was previously an Electrical Fitter with the RAAF and hails from Brisbane. Boyd will be posted in Darwin.

The Physical Training Trophy for outstanding physical training ability was awarded to Clinton Richardson, 38, of Perth. He's a qualified panel beater who has spent the last 16 years working in casinos on the gaming tables and will be posted to Palmerston.

Peter Brown, 22, was presented with the Glen Huitson Trophy for the most consistent application in all areas of the training course. The Alice Springs man was the youngest in the squad and will be posted to Katherine.

Police Commissioner Paul White congratulated the squad, wishing them well with the challenges that lie ahead as they work to serve and protect the community of the Northern Territory.



ABOVE L to R: Clinton Richardson, Boyd McMahon, Mark Berry and Peter Brown

"I have no doubt they will enjoy the next phase of their police training and face the challenges head-on as they move to new locations and into stations around the Territory."

The graduates will be posted as follows:

- Alice Springs – 7
- Tennant Creek – 3
- Darwin – 10
- Katherine – 4

Police Squad 87, with 24 recruits, commenced training on 26 June and will graduate in February 2007.

## Les Martin leaves us after 27 years

By Sue Bradley

***Senior Sergeant Les Martin recently retired after serving 27 years with the Northern Territory Police Force.***

Les joined the NT Police on 20 February 1979 after a mate told him about the job and thought it might be interesting.

He was sworn in as a member on 26 February 1979 and his first posting was at Casuarina Police Station.

Since then he has served in the Criminal Investigation Bureau, Combined Drug Enforcement Section, Prosecutions and police stations at Tennant Creek, Jabiru, Wadeye, Palmerston and Darwin.

In a letter received from the Commissioner, Les was praised for his outstanding detective work, particularly in the criminal

investigations where he was highly respected amongst the public and his peers.

"Your dedication to drug investigation was highlighted when you were appointed as the Officer in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Section in August 2000. In this role you were instrumental in the implementation of the Remote Community Drug Strategy and the establishment of the Remote Community Drug Desk within the section."

The Commissioner went on to say, "the success of that strategy coupled with the professionalism and effectiveness of drug enforcement operations throughout the Northern Territory can be largely attributed to your dedication, leadership and commitment to the Drug Enforcement Section and to



ABOVE: Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham (right) reads the Commissioner's letter to Senior Sergeant Les Martin

the Northern Territory Police as a whole.

"I have enjoyed working in all areas of the NT Police and can't really single out one particular highlight," Les said.

Les left with a set of chrome handcuffs, an Engel fridge and some very fond memories of good friends he has made over the years.

Asked if he would do it all again he said, "Absolutely, just not at my age."

# NTPFES win at ICT awards

By Hayley Dwyer

**NTPFES won several prestigious awards at the recent 2006 Northern Territory Information and Communications Technology Awards (NTICTA).**

The NTICTA awards recognise outstanding performance and contributions by members of the ICT community in the NT.

John Weippert, Director ICT NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services won the *Achiever Award*, recognising the outstanding contribution of an individual to ICT in the NT.

"I was recognised through this award for my contribution to ICT, primarily outside of my normal day job," explained John. "It means a lot because it recognises my hard work – most of it in my own time."

John has been the chairman of the local branch of the Australian Computer Society (ACS) for the last five years and has been active at both local and national levels.

Over the last five years he has also been active in coordinating and facilitating professional development through the provision of guest speakers into the NT, something that is now a standard practice.

John's other achievement includes helping to launch the ACS Foundation, a charity which provides scholarships to ICT students.

"In the NT the ACS Foundation Branch raised an initial \$30 000 and awarded \$9000 to three students in 2006, but more sponsors are welcome."

Kerry Grace, Manager Assessment and Curriculum Section at the NTPFES College accepted the *Enabling Technology Award* for the ACPO Learning at Work project. This project used podcasting, video, mobile-learning and online forums to help Aboriginal Community Police Officers learn complex law and order regulations.

The *Enabling Technology Award* recognises excellence in a broad category of ICT solutions implemented within or for an NT organisation.

recognition

"The award has given great recognition to our organisation. People were very surprised with the innovation we've shown in providing educational



John Weippert (right) is presented with his award by Jeff Ferdinands

opportunities for staff through different application of technology," explained Kerry.

He said there has been an increased focus on the project and it had certainly generated interest.

"We've been contacted by the Departments of Employment, Education and Training, and Health and Community Services who want to explore this option for their own staff," he said.

"We're also going to give a demonstration to Queensland Police this month."

"There are real opportunities for this project to go forward."

The awards are held annually through a combined effort by the NT Branch of the Australian Information Industry Association and the Australian Computer Society.

All winners competed for the Judges Platinum Award for overall excellence in which the ACPO Learning at Work project received a *Special Commendation*.



Kerry Grace (right) is presented with his award by Elliot McAdam, MLA



# Crime and Violence Reduction Award

By Sharon Hutton

**NT Police was recently recognised for its innovation at the annual Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards for our Violent Crime Reduction Strategy.**

Sponsored by the heads of Australian governments and members of the Australasian Police Ministers' Council as a joint Australian Government, state and territory initiative, the awards are designed to reward good practice in the prevention or reduction of violence and other types of crime in Australia.

The Violent Crime Reduction Strategy aims to reduce crime and violence in the community by:

- understanding and targeting the causal factors of assault and domestic violence
- utilising generic strategies to target recidivist violence offenders, victims and their families
- monitoring police performance and providing feedback to the workforce
- working with other government and non-

government agencies that provide support services to victims of domestic violence.

The project has established Domestic and Personal Violence Protection Units in four major centres in the NT, increasing the number of trained operational staff members who manage domestic related crime.

Through the development of policy, police are supported to take formal action at each domestic incident they attend – either civil (restraining order) or criminal (charges).

The project is innovative as it is tackling the cycle of violence, looking for the cause rather than just dealing with the incident; it utilises intelligence-led strategies to address violence at a strategic as well as operational level; and it is about working together to effect a change across all government agencies, communities, offenders/victims themselves.

## New Zealand Police Dog Training Centre

By Sue Bradley

**Constable First Class Dave Young recently spent eight days in New Zealand at the new New Zealand Police Dog Training Centre in Wellington.**

It was a four day conference covering topics such as the use of force by general purpose police dogs, the new Australasian Professional Police Standards for training police dogs and breeding police dogs for self sufficiency.

There were several guest speakers from overseas covering a range of training techniques in reference to general purpose police dogs and detection police dogs.

The conference also coincided with the 50th anniversary of the New Zealand Police Dog Section with a formal parade held on 7 October followed by a dinner that night.

"I gained an exceptional amount of knowledge from the conference which I can now pass on to our police," said Dave.

"The relationships that I fostered between the Northern Territory and the other states can only be of benefit for the future of the NT Police Dog Operations Unit."



RIGHT: Constable First Class Dave Young with Bruiser, a NZ general purpose police dog

# Terrific Tiwi's

Bathurst Island, Melville Island and the seas that surround them are the home of the Tiwi people writes **Hayley Dwyer**

## ***Tiwi cultural history credits Mudangkala an old blind woman for creating their land.***

Legend has it that Mudangkala arose from the ground carrying three babies in her arms. As she crawled in darkness across the featureless, landscape, sea water followed and filled the imprints made by her body.

Eventually pools became one and formed a channel. The old woman continued her journey overland and once again the moulded earth filled with the flow of water, plants and animals in preparation for her children and for the generation of Tiwi people who followed.

The area's first recorded European contact was with Dutch sailors, under the command of Commander Maarten van Delft who took three

ships into Shark Bay on Melville Island and landed on 30 April 1705 to much protest from the Tiwis.

It was not until May 1818 that Captain Philip Parker King from Sydney mapped the islands and gave them the names they have today.

In 1824 British soldiers established a military post at Fort Dundas near Pirlangimpi. The venture failed for a number of reasons, not least to fierce resistance from the Tiwi and after four and a half years the settlers withdrew, noting the proud independence of the Tiwi and their prowess as warriors. The remains of the Fort can be seen adjacent to the community airfield.

Buffalo shooters came to the Islands in 1895, the buffalo having been introduced by the British soldiers

in 1824. Shortly afterwards Francis Xavier Gsell established the Roman Catholic Mission at Nguiu in 1911, and this continues to the present day.

## Nguiu

Located about 70 kilometres north of Darwin, Nguiu (pronounced Noo-yoo) is the largest community in the Tiwi Islands. Nguiu is situated on Bathurst Island, the smaller of the Tiwi Islands of Bathurst and Melville, and has a patrol area of 2070 square kilometres.

Nguiu, home to about 1500 people, is on the south-eastern tip of Bathurst Island, on the Apsley Strait. The island is scenic with many sandy beaches and surrounded by blue seas. Nguiu began as a Catholic mission and that influence is still strong in the community.

The influences on Bathurst Island's development took a new turn with the arrival of German missionary, Bishop Gsell, a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

In 1906 Gsell was the Apostolic Administrator of the Northern Territory and persuaded the South Australian Government to give him about 4000 hectares of land on Bathurst Island to build a mission. He gradually earned the Tiwi's trust, particularly through improved health care.

*Cultural tour - Tiwi Islands, photo courtesy Tourism NT*





In World War II the missionaries sighted the Japanese bombers on their way to bomb Darwin on 19 February 1942 but the warning was dismissed as a mistaken sighting of allied aircraft.

In 1978 the ownership of Bathurst Island was formerly handed back to the Tiwi people and today the island is run by the Tiwi Islands Local Government.

The two-member police station at Nguiu is headed by an officer-in-charge and also has an Aboriginal Community Police Officer. Members are responsible for the day-to-day policing of Bathurst, with general duties, traffic campaigns, search and rescue and fisheries enforcement.

"This is an extremely busy station, but there are also great lifestyle opportunities including fishing and hunting," said Officer-in-Charge, Brevet Sergeant David Wilson.

Members and their families live at Nguiu, which has two schools, a health centre, child care centre, post office and church. There are regular daily flights to and from Darwin and a daily ferry service for supplies. There are modern facilities including swimming pool,

sports and recreation hall, football ovals and golf course. The Tiwi Islands' Football Grand Final attracts national media coverage each year and of course, fishing is a perennial favourite.

Other attractions include the Tiwi Design arts, textile production and workshop, Tumwirripi Falls, Rocky Point and remote beaches.

### Pirlangimpi

Located about 80 kilometres north of Darwin, Pirlangimpi (pronounced Pir-lan-gimpee) is situated on Melville Island, and has a patrol area of 6260 square kilometres.

Also known as Garden Point, due to the great gardens and scenic landscapes, Melville Island is Australia's second largest island after Tasmania.

In 1939, the government of the day set up a ration centre at Pirlangimpi to care for the Tiwi of Melville Island. The next year a Catholic Mission was established.

Shortly after World War II, almost all of the Tiwi people had settled in one of the three major settlements: Nguiu, on Bathurst Island, Milikapiti or Pirlangimpi on Melville.

In 1978 the ownership of Melville Island was formally handed back to the Tiwi people and today the island is run by the Tiwi Islands Local Government.

Football is the dominant sport and recreational activity on the Islands, while fishing is also a popular pastime. There is also a nine-hole grass golf course behind the police houses and the Munupi Arts and Crafts Centre.

The two-member police station at Pirlangimpi is headed by an officer-in-charge and also has an Aboriginal Community Police Officer attached from Milikapiti.

Pirlangimpi members are responsible for the day-to-day policing of Melville, with general duties, traffic campaigns, search and rescue and fisheries enforcement.



**ABOVE L to R:** Commissioner Paul White, Brevet Sergeant David Wilson and Constable First Class Matt Ridolfi

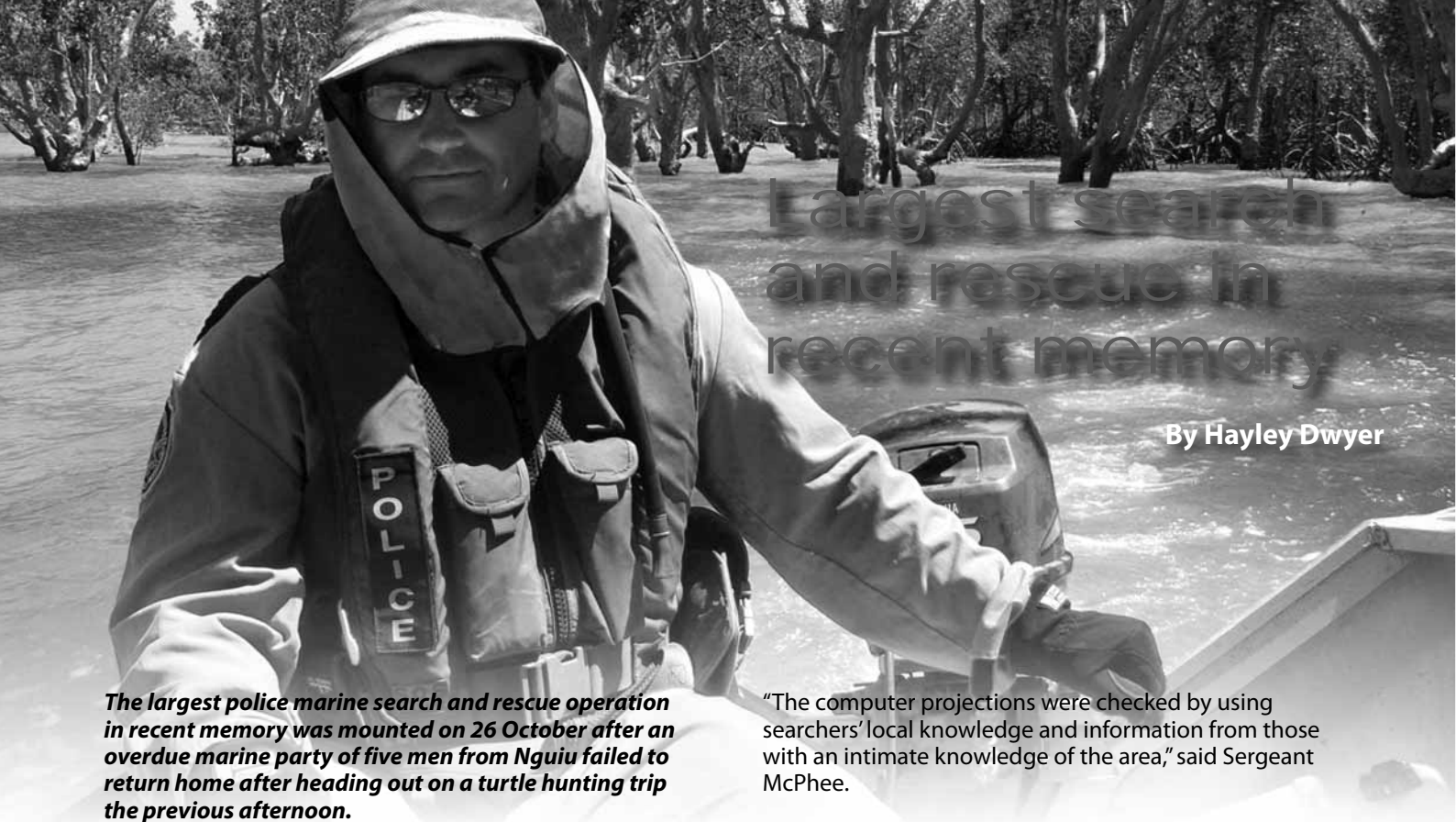
"It is the nicest community I have been to. The people in the community are friendly and the fishing is fantastic. Our policing district is huge but we are fairly well resourced," said Officer-in-Charge, Senior Constable First Class Peter Winton.

"I like the bush work. Getting out and helping my people," said ACPO, Dennis Henry.

The community of 350 people has a primary school, health centre, general store, takeaway food store, newsagency, bakery, post office, church and public library.

"The people of Pirlangimpi are probably the nicest people you will ever meet. The community is a proud place and residents of it display a sense of pride in what ever they do. Football is a religion out here and it provides a great way to involve yourself in the community whether on or off the field," said Constable Nathan Mamo.





# Largest search and rescue in recent memory

By Hayley Dwyer

***The largest police marine search and rescue operation in recent memory was mounted on 26 October after an overdue marine party of five men from Nguu failed to return home after heading out on a turtle hunting trip the previous afternoon.***

This operation demonstrated the major logistical considerations and liaison that takes place whenever there is a requirement to locate people feared lost at sea.

The search was a collaborative effort between numerous sections of the Northern Territory Police and NT Emergency Service, Australian Search and Rescue (AusSAR), specialist search and rescue air crews, chartered aircraft, Tiwi Sea Rangers, search and rescue specialists and local community volunteers.

The sheer scale of an operation such as this requires a large number of physical and human resources and comprehensive planning and coordination, according to Sergeant Glenn McPhee, of the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section, who was the search manager and coordinator.

"I have been involved in many large search and rescue operations over the last 20 years. But this was by far the largest number of aircraft tasked to an intensive operation such as this one.

"We carefully planned and coordinated an extensive and exhaustive search utilising more than 80 personnel and many volunteers searching on the ground, air and water. There were three fixed wing aircraft, seven helicopters, five vessels, numerous ground searchers, motorcycles and vehicles.

"It is an extremely disappointing result for the families and for the searchers that we have been unable to locate all the men who were reported missing, but we certainly utilised every available method and asset available to us," Sergeant McPhee said.

Part of this technology included the narrowing down of the search area using satellite to predict tidal and current flows in the Clarence Strait to determine the most likely location for survivors or debris. Police also carried out detailed inquiries throughout the search operation.

"The computer projections were checked by using searchers' local knowledge and information from those with an intimate knowledge of the area," said Sergeant McPhee.

The Clarence Strait, the stretch of water between the Tiwi Islands and the remote Gunn Point area of the Darwin coastline, known for strong currents and large tidal variation would be difficult to search otherwise.

The search area was then transferred to electronic maps so that searchers could plot their grid searches directed into the computer system using their GPS. In addition to this there was infra-red technology tackling the search from the air.

"Our joint effort with AusSAR enabled the use of a special rescue plane fitted with infra-red technology to locate objects which may be in the water. This type of plane has a system installed that detects motion and heat in the water."

This system was able to locate a jerry can believed to belong to the boaters in the Leeders Creek area, but there were no further signs of the men. After four gruelling days of intensive searching, the missing men were not found and hopes for them began to fade.

"The search was a great cooperative effort between all involved and unfortunately we have not found the men. I can only praise the outstanding dedication and efforts of all the people who assisted in this search, including the Tiwi Sea Rangers and other volunteers.

"Although the search is officially suspended, police will continue to pursue all avenues of inquiry," said Sergeant McPhee.

"Sadly, however if anything is to be learnt from this tragedy it is that when you are on the water you need to be wearing your life jacket or at least have it within reach. It is better to have too much safety gear on board than too little.

"Unfortunately, you can never predict when you may experience difficulties on the water and that's why it's vital to ensure that you have the appropriate equipment."



# National Police Memorial Dedication

***Northern Territory police officers who died in the line of duty were honoured at the Dedication of the new National Police Memorial in Canberra on Friday 29 September 2006.***

The Memorial Dedication paid tribute to Australian Police Officers who have been killed on duty or have died as a result of their duties since the advent of policing in Australia and to recognise the unique nature of police service and the dangers that police face in their daily duties.

The Dedication March departed from the Old Parliament House for the Memorial, in Kings Park. The Territory contingent of 39 Territory police personnel included marchers, motorcycle riders, mounted patrols and air wing who participated in a fly-over.

Commissioner Paul White and Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham participated in the ceremony and watched on as NT Police Officers did the Territory proud.

Sergeant Garry Casey had the honour of being the Catafalque Party Commander and the Flag Party Commander and members Senior Sergeant Col Goodsell, Senior Constables Neil Mellon, Ross Bohlin and Steve Hazell and Constable Mal Stewart made up the Flag Party.

Sergeant Russell Ruehland was part of the Prime Minister's motorcycle escort and Sergeant Phil Campbell was on deck for the arrival of the Prime Minister across Lake Burley Griffin.

NTPFES Chaplain Peter Wright joined the dedication service and

Ms Kris Lee designed and produced the Order of Service booklet and other NPM publications as well as being the Territory's official photographer on the day. Pilot Leon Covey took the trip from Alice Springs with members and then participated in a fly-over for the ceremony.

Very special guests included a number of family members of Lou Hook, Colin Eckert, Ian Bradford and Glen Huitson, who made the trip from Darwin, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia respectively. Joseph and Ruby Huitson had the special honour of representing the Territory in the lighting of a candle of remembrance.

NT Police Legacy was proud to be able to provide assistance and make arrangements for the families on this important and historical day of remembrance.

Eight Territory Police Officers have died in the line of duty since the inception of the Northern Territory Police Force in 1883. The names of these officers join more than 700 other names of Australian police on the memorial.

The names of NT Police included on the memorial are:

- Mounted Constable Albert Stewart McColl (died 1 August 1933, aged 30 years)
- Constable Maxwell Clifford Gilbert (died 17 August 1948, aged 27 years)
- Constable William Bryan Condon (died 9 June 1952, aged 29 years)
- Inspector Louis Clandon Hook (died 16 June 1967, aged 50 years)

- Sergeant Colin John Eckert (died 9 June 1970, aged 31 years)
- Senior Constable Allen David Price (died 11 December 1981, aged 44 years)
- Detective Sergeant Ian Graham Bradford (died 29 January 1984, aged 37 years)
- Brevet Sergeant Glen Anthony Huitson (died 3 August 1999, aged 37 years)

The NT Police marching contingent was: Mounted Police member Senior Constable Samantha Charlton and on foot Sergeant Gert Johnsson, Detective Sergeant Michael Ordelman, Constable Bobby Docking, Constable Julie Hollemans, Sergeant John Mader, Senior ACPO Mark Casey, Senior Constable Lynette Balchin, Senior Constable Dani Mattiuzzo, Constable David Finch, Senior ACPO Jimmy Lolas, Constable Gavan Ascoli, Senior Sergeant Danny Bacon, Senior Police Auxiliary Heather Oliver, ACPO Patrick Perkins, Senior Constable Chris Ruszicska, Senior Constable David Skelton, Sergeant Mary Ann Skelton, Senior Constable Ruth Whitford, Brevet Sergeant Mark Henderson and Police Auxiliary Sanne Baltoft-Henderson, Sergeant Chris Wilson, Senior Constable First Class Taryn Wilson and Superintendent Sean Parnell.

Credit goes to Superintendents David Pryce and Anne-Marie Murphy for coordination, logistics and planning.



**NATIONAL  
POLICE  
MEMORIAL**



## *Memorial wall*



## *Rehearsal*



Photos from the National Po  
rehearsal and ceremony in

## *Old Parliament House*



## *March & Ceremony*





# Police Memorial Dedication Canberra, September 2006





# Land Search Team Course



***The Northern Territory Emergency Service, Southern Region conducted a Land Search Course recently at the Watarrka Emergency Response Unit, Kings Canyon.***

The course was attended by 11 NTES volunteers from Watarrka, Mt Ebenezer, Hermannsburg, Alice Springs and three NT Police members from Yulara and Hermannsburg. NTES Emergency Response Officer, Steve Muir and Education and Development

Officer, Rob Romaldi, facilitated the program.

"Participants were taught the skills and techniques for the efficient coverage of a search area and the preservation of evidence, as well as procedures for recalling and standing down search teams," said Steve Muir.

NT Police Superintendent Michael White congratulated the NTES staff on facilitating this nationally accredited course.

"These courses are vital to future operational needs for both agencies, NT Police and NTES volunteers, and it is imperative for the services to work in unison."

"At times we tend to underestimate the commitment, resources, knowledge and skills that NTES volunteers bring every time they are utilised."

*(Thanks to Rob Romaldi for his contribution to this story.)*

## Kids light up the fire station By Theresa Kuilboer

***Alice Springs Senior Firefighter John Pyper was on hand recently when the media was invited along to watch school children from the Sadadeen Primary School take a tour of the fire station.***

Children from Sadadeen's Transition class were in awe of the big red fire trucks as they were shown around the station, but nothing topped being able to hold the hose and play in the water.

Amid delighted squeals (not all coming from the children) staff at the station pulled out all stops to ensure no one escaped getting wet and everyone would remember the visit.

"No wonder we all think we've got the best job in the world," John said. "It's just great being able to interact with the community like that. It's not just fun to show them around but it gives us an opportunity to explain that we do more than fight fires."

The station plays host to two or three groups of school children a month, as well as groups from remote communities and work experience youngsters who spend several weeks a year as would-be firefighters.

"But we still think the little kids are the best. It shows the community the lighter side of our job, and we all just love it."





# Bish Hyke receives his 30-year service medal

By Sharon Hutton

***A long battle with cancer failed to deter Bish Peter Hyke from attending the NT Fire and Rescue Service Investiture Ceremony on 3 October.***

The 59-year-old firefighter has dedicated more than 30 years to serving the community and his mates and he received a special honour at the ceremony with a long, heartfelt applause.



Photo courtesy NT News

His presence at the ceremony was a courageous one, after leaving his hospital bed to attend.

"I got out of the hospital today and I am full of drugs but I am here to accept this honour," he said.

"This is a terrible illness and I wouldn't wish it on anyone."

Bish could not distinguish between the many highlights of his long career and said it was all fantastic.

"Every day was great, it's not like going to work as a carpenter and putting a couple of shelves up. Every day is unique and you are helping people," the father of three said.

When it came to his colleagues, each was a "unique and beautiful person."

He said it was sometimes easier to share thoughts and emotions with the 'troops' than family as they tend to have a better understanding of the pressures of the job.

"This medal means a lot to me, the Territory has been good to me," he said.

Bish migrated to Australia with his



Photo courtesy NT News

family from Poland in 1949. He fell in love with the Territory when he visited his wife's hometown in 1967. They returned together to live once married and Bish had completed his military service.

Bish was one of six members to receive the 30 year NT Fire and Rescue Service Medal. The other recipients were Senior Firefighter Kenneth Bonson, Senior Station Officers Ian Buckland and Gavin Docherty, and Station Officers Allan Oates and Anthony Smith.

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## Kate keeps on the right side of the law

By Sue Bradley



***Commander Kate Vanderlaan has added another feather to her cap having recently received her law degree after seven years' part-time distance study.***

Kate already has a Bachelor of Arts (History and English), Master of Public Policy and Administration, and Graduate Certificate in Applied Management. She has also attended the Management of Serious Crime Course and completed the Police Management Development Program.

"This year was particularly hard as I had one assignment due in the middle of the Katherine Floods so it had to be done under difficult conditions of sleep deprivation and stress," said Commander Vanderlaan.

"Later my final assignment was due during the East Timor evacuations – so again a very stressful time but eventually I got through it and it was a big relief.

"Law is a good generalist degree and I feel it has assisted me significantly in my decision making."

# Finding a balance that works

There's no one-size-fits all solution when it comes to balancing a career and family writes **Hayley Dwyer**

***Bring up work-life balance at a neighbour's barbecue, and the conversation immediately turns to stories about racing out of meetings to pick up kids from school and then doing the inevitable drop-off and pick-up run between swimming, music lessons or dancing or sport, not to mention the struggle to get away for a decent holiday.***

Complaints about the ongoing struggle to find time are now so common that everybody, it seems, is stressed out about time, and achieving 'balance' has become the holy grail of modern family life.

Regardless of what stage their careers are at, working parents have a hard time achieving balance between work and family.

According to new research from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, it is women who take on or are given more responsibility for their homes than are men, often leading to frustration and exhaustion.

Women's access to jobs may once have been a political issue, but in today's tough economic climate, working is now a necessity for most mothers. The bulk of families can no longer afford to live on one income.

Despite women's greater participation in the workforce, most men have yet to increase their share of domestic duties. This means that the majority of working mothers are also responsible for housework and looking after their children.

Working all day and then coming home to a young child can be difficult, at best. You've put all your energy into doing your job well — answering to your boss, colleagues' and the public's demands. The last thing you may feel like doing is answering to your child's.

Historically, households are comfortable with the absence of the

father doing paid work. Providing the mother is present in the home, one adult can generally do all or most of the unpaid work required to run a household and care for children.

But the strong rise in workplace participation by women has not been matched by fathers dropping their hours to be present in the home.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS 2004): *"While total hours of work are generally similar between men and women — when combining the paid and unpaid work they do each week — men's share is mostly made up of paid work."*



How did women arrive at this position? Studies have revealed that while household work was negotiated between working parents, mothers continued to do most of the unpaid work. There is a tendency for mothers to take traditional roles of doing what is perceived to be 'fair' and acting out what it means to be a wife and mother.

But surely these theories on gender construction are not so relevant in our enlightened society?

The more likely scenario is that modern working couples choose what works for them, even if that means some inequality around the home, as it is counteracted elsewhere.

Senior Constable Kiim Parnell explains she and her husband Sean tried swapping roles for two weeks while she completed her studies in tropical horticulture.

"It didn't work out so well for us with me out and him at home full time, it wasn't an issue of finances — he just kept saying he didn't know how I did it!"

"It suits us both for me to stay home. I enjoy my children and I enjoyed being pregnant, I'm not an 'earth mother', I just like children and this arrangement works for us."

A job with family friendly policies and work options can be a solution to this modern dilemma.

Certainly there has been an increase in choices available to mothers who combine paid work with family responsibilities, largely due to the increased availability of part time jobs and the number of childcare places.

But how practical are these options?

"For each child I've taken the six year maternity leave option, but I went back to work early each time, working part-time five different times," explained Kiim.

"Four times I was asked to come back to work, and once was to fill in for someone else while they were on maternity leave. The last full time position I had was with the Junior Police Rangers and it was fantastic and has been a real benefit for our family."

Currently on maternity leave with her sixth child, Kiim first put her career on hold in 1993 to start her family and she had mixed feelings about the decision.

"I wasn't really that keen at first, but by the time we had decided to wait another year we were already pregnant, so I had to go with it," said Kiim. "I had worked as a

police officer for seven years before deciding to start a family and I had a very strong sense of identity from my job, I absolutely loved it. After the initial shock of the first baby things became easier."

"We were living at Harts Range at the time our first two children were born. It was relaxed with no pressures and there was plenty of time to be together as a family."

"Both my husband and I come from large families and this is something that we always wanted ourselves, although I always thought it was four not six!"

"Certainly making a decision about the home workload was a difficult one but I had great support from my husband and my family."

Even after adjusting to a 'new' life

as a mother, some women feel that they lose touch with their profession and that their skills may be weakening. In addition there can be a sense of routine and difficulty in settling into finding new friends and social outlets without the constant references to the children.

The 'keep in touch' scheme for people on leave has had limited benefit for Kiim and she sees it as an area for improvement.

"Certainly these emails haven't really worked for me. It's the ability to work part-time that has kept me in touch with most work issues and my skills up to date, and with my husband being a member too, he's kept me informed."

Missing her career is not really an issue for Kiim. "It's great to have all these flexible options but family is

much more important to us, work will always come second now that we have children."

So it's important to remember that there's no one-size-fits-all solution for the problem of balancing long hours on the job with a healthy family life and the birth of a child does not need to signal the end to a career. It's simply a matter of working out what works as needs change over time. Through trial and error, families can work out how to take advantage of the many opportunities available today.

The challenge for the workplace is to always provide an avenue for mothers to contribute their knowledge, skills and experience, no matter how much time they have available. So it may be possible for a mother to be able to have it all, it's just a matter of finding what works.

## Policing runs in the family

By Sharon Hutton

***It was inevitable that Constable Angela Salter would become a police officer. With a father and uncles all in the force and mum being a police auxiliary it really was just a matter of time.***

Angela's father, Trevor Finn, was an officer for 10 years, based in and around Darwin as Coroner's Constable and in fingerprints.

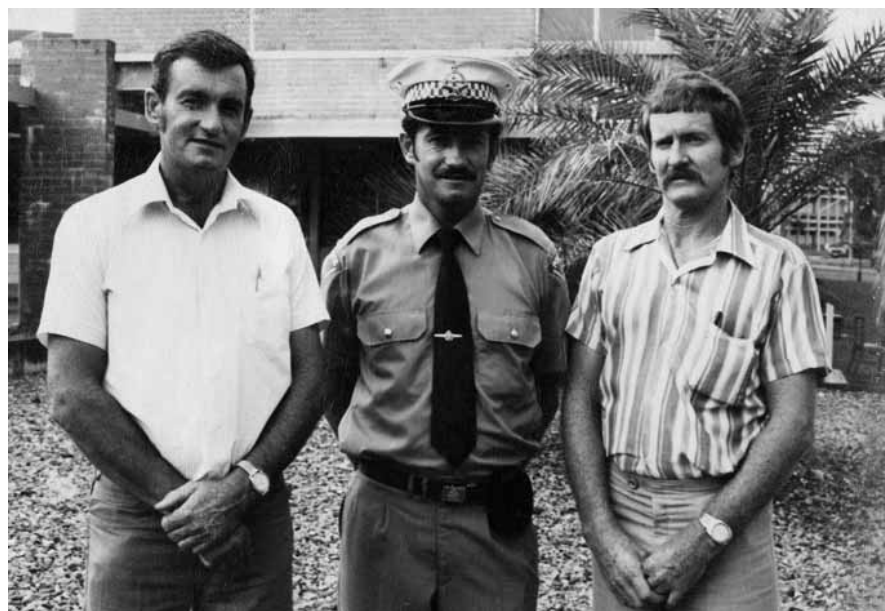
Described as a colourful character by colleagues, Trevor moved to Correctional Services in 1986 before retiring in 2006.

Whilst he misses the camaraderie of the force he's a very proud dad and loves that Angela is following in his footsteps.

Trevor graduated in Squad 29 in

October 1978, joining two of his brothers in the force.

He later married Sylvia and together they have four children, including Angela who served as an auxiliary for about two years before joining as a constable in 2004. Angela is a General Duties Officer based at Darwin Station.



ABOVE L to R: Sylvia Finn and Angela Salter

LEFT L to R: Colin, Trevor and Errol Finn

# Firearms unit stick to their guns

By Hayley Dwyer

***The Firearms Policy and Records Unit recently stuck to their guns in a training session at Robertson Barracks.***

Organised by Firearms Officer Neil McDade, who's also a Warrant Officer, Class 2 with the Army Reserves, the semi-automatic session provided an additional awareness of the different range of firearms.

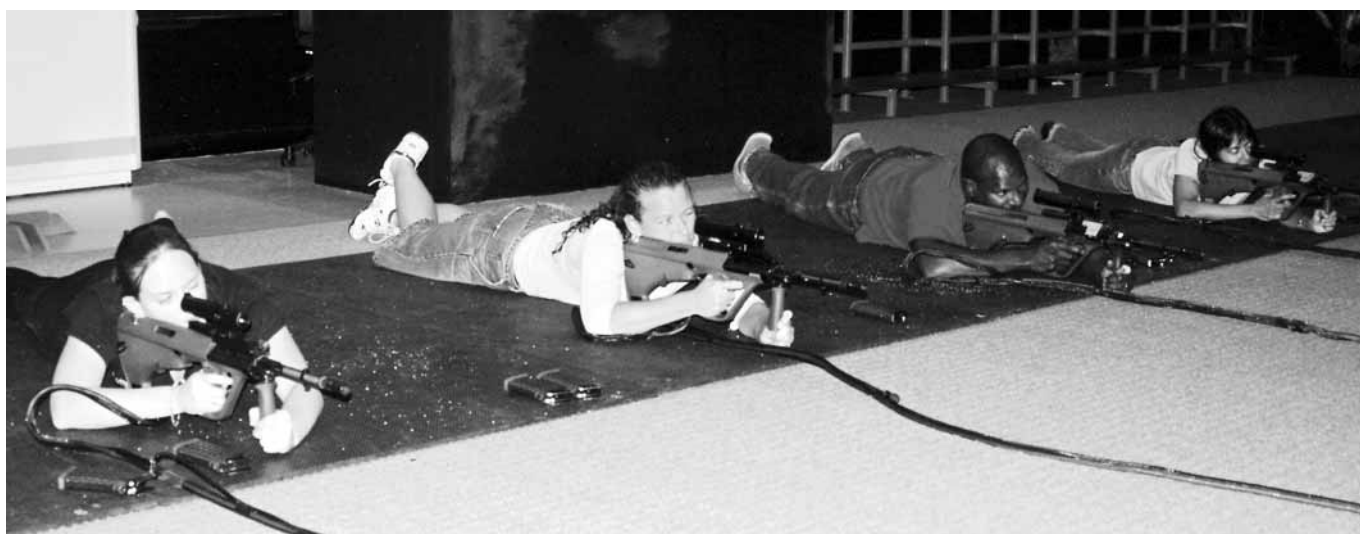
"The session was organised to give a better idea of the different types and styles of firearms there are out there. This assists staff with registration and answering queries," said Neil. "It's easier to utilise the defence facility than to arrange a session at a shooting range – it provides a good

introduction to the weapons without the danger," he explained.

"The simulator provides either a range or scenario programming and is less intensive on the instructor."

Four staff members completed the session, including Firearms Officer, Sharmini Edwards.

"This session gave me a broader understanding of firearms, particularly the realistic sound and recoil of the simulator," she said.



## Crime Stoppers celebrates 10 years

By Katie Woolf

***Crime Stoppers recently celebrated its 10 year anniversary with a morning tea at Parliament House.***

Several dignitaries attended the event along with members of the public and police force who helped launch the initiative over 10 years ago.

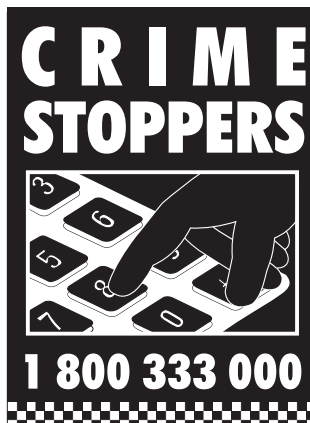
The milestone was celebrated with the presentation of the Youth Challenge awards which were presented to school children who participated in the poster and colouring competition as well as a poster design award.

Poster award winners included Georgia-Lee Kinna from Durack Primary School who won first place, while the encouragement award went to Cohna Reid and Loyola Wills also from Durack Primary School.

The colouring in competition was won by Grace Fuller from Nightcliff Primary School, while the Encouragement award went to Matilda Dorman also of Nightcliff Primary School and Tayla-Rose from Gray Primary School.

A special award was presented to the Bakewell Primary School year 6/7 Nichillin for their whole class poster design. Sarah Hay of Durack Primary School also received a certificate for a poem she entered in the competition.

Senior winners Matthew Alford and Maria Koulianos from Darwin High School each won gift vouchers, while their school won a computer. The school generously donated the computer to the Down Syndrome Association.





# EMA course for Alice Springs

By Theresa Kuilboer

***Emergency responses in Southern Region will be much more efficient following a recent Emergency Management Australia course in Alice Springs.***

The aim of the course was to provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to successfully establish and operate an Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) or Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The course also aimed to give participants the skills to develop a media strategy and to manage the media during a major incident.

The agencies represented at the week-long course, which was facilitated by NT Emergency Service (Southern Region) included Power and Water, Freightlink, Alice Springs Town Council, Alice Springs Hospital, Parks and Wildlife, Health and NTPFES.

The course led to a real-time emergency exercise in setting up and running an EOC, introduced case studies and required participants working in teams to develop a timeline for the establishment of an EOC.

Course information included a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of people in an EOC, how and where an EOC should be established and the requirements for accurate information flow and record-keeping in an EOC.

The impact of the media during a major incident was comprehensively covered. Participants were instructed on the concept of lead agencies, the development of media strategies, the logistics of managing the media at remote locations and media pooling.

Participants were also given a clear understanding of the importance of interaction and liaison between media officers from all relevant agencies during an incident.

The course was a resounding success, especially in highlighting the importance of preparedness from all

agencies. The real-time exercise also pointed out some areas for improvement, however, the value of the exercise was in the ability to identify these areas and put systems in place to correct them.

## NTPFES members' library services

The library, situated at the PFES Training College, is open for all members and staff of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services. The library's services cover the following areas:

- Australian Standards
- internet access
- personal email/internet access
- database access
- research assistance
- internet training
- current awareness
- computer training
- online catalogue and ordering

### Extended opening hours:

Monday	8 to 4 pm
Tuesday	8 to 6 pm
Wednesday	8 to 6 pm
Thursday	8 to 6 pm
Friday	8 to 4 pm
Saturday	10 to 3 pm

### Contact us:

Tel 8922 3671  
Fax 8922 3672  
Email [pfes.library@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:pfes.library@pfes.nt.gov.au)

# Turning back the clock

By Sharon Hutton

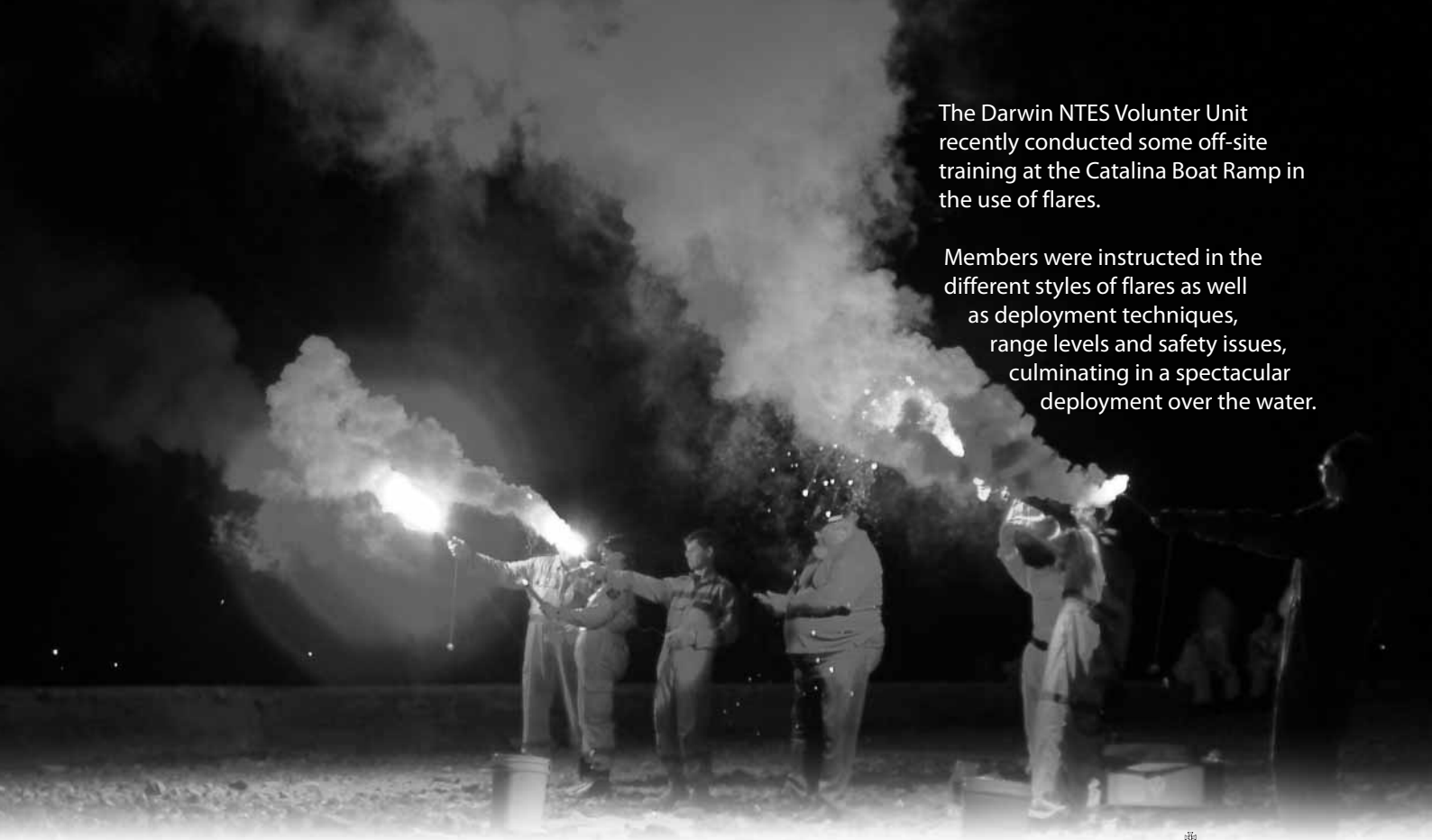
***A recent initiative by Humpty Doo members has seen police and some young members of the public work together to rid the local shops of graffiti and 'turn the clock back to zero'.***

The local shops recently sustained a significant amount of graffiti after a number of youths allegedly vandalised the premises.



The owner of the supermarket had called on the services of Corrections and their captive workforce in an effort to remove graffiti which had defaced the building.

(continued on page 24)



The Darwin NTES Volunteer Unit recently conducted some off-site training at the Catalina Boat Ramp in the use of flares.

Members were instructed in the different styles of flares as well as deployment techniques, range levels and safety issues, culminating in a spectacular deployment over the water.



## NTES volunteers' activities



Volunteers from Darwin and Palmerston NTES Units recently assisted in the pre-cyclone clean-up in and around Darwin. It's a hot, sweaty and physical kind of a day but there's always plenty of laughs along the way. Helping out this year were Jeff Seib, Maree Scott, Alex Cooper, Jon Thomas, Wayne Thomas, Phil Ingram and Andrea McKey.



# MFES gets a RHIB-ing



***The Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section recently took delivery of a tactical RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) to help increase our capability to protect our vast coastline.***

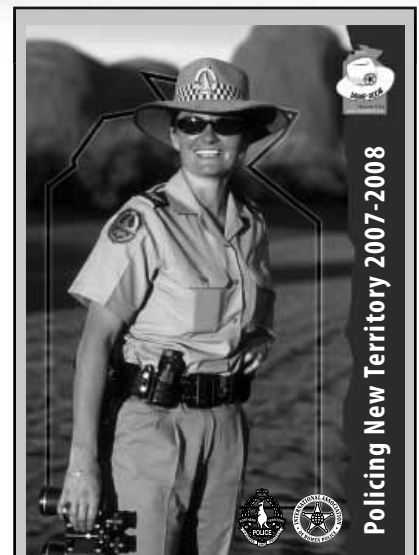
The 8.5 metre vessel is designed to military specifications. It was used as the platform to provide marine security on Sydney Harbour during the 2000 Olympics and is now utilised by five other jurisdictions.

"The RHIB will prove a great asset to the NT Police and enable us to develop a maritime security capability," said Sergeant Glenn McPhee, acting Officer in Charge at MFES.

The RHIB may be used for a diverse range of operations such as boarding non-compliant vessels and play a counter terrorist role and may be the first of a number in the fleet of NT Police vessels.

"We have one at this stage, which will help us ramp up our skills."

"Two instructors from the Victorian Marine Response Unit will soon be delivering fast response vessel training."



## IAWP calendars on sale now!

To promote the International Association of Women Police conference being held in Darwin in 2008, we have produced a high quality two-year calendar, which showcases our Territory and the important role of women in the police force.

They make great Christmas gifts for family and friends!

Cost: \$20 each  
Available from the Darwin and Alice Springs media units or visit [www.iawp2008.org](http://www.iawp2008.org)

# NTPFES Occupational Healthy and Safety Management System

By Dean Garrett

***Since the initial introduction of the NTPFES Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) in January 2006 significant procedural and operational changes have been implemented within the workplace for all NTPFES employees.***

One of the most significant has been the creation of Workplace Health and Safety Committees (WHSC) across the organisation. Currently 32 committees have been formed in strategic locations to provide the maximum coverage for all employees.

The WHSC is the first point of contact for all workplace health and safety concerns within your workplace.

As prescribed by the OHSMS, notice boards will have a designated section dedicated to workplace health and safety. These will be prominently positioned in each workplace and all relevant OH&S information will be displayed on them including the names of your local WHSC representatives. All relevant workplace health and safety concerns should be raised with these committee members.

Several WHSC are operating successfully at the many locations.

Those located at PMC, NT House and Darwin Fire Station have been particularly proactive.

As part of their duties the WHSC members have been conducting OH&S meetings, performing workplace inspections and undertaking the identification and control of hazards.

In conjunction with the Workplace Health and Safety Advisers a number of less complex issues have been resolved.

All major concerns have been forwarded onto the Occupational Health and Safety Management Consultative Committee (OHSMCC) for review and action.

Should you have any OH&S concerns please contact your designated WHSC members or if you are unsure of which committee is responsible for coverage within your workplace, contact Neville Haskins (08) 8985 8916 or Dean Garrett (08) 8985 8915 for further information.

WHSC locations	
Alice Springs Police Station	Crime Prevention
Alyangula Police Station	Territory Support
Casuarina Police Station	Forensics
Darwin Police Station	NT House
Humpty Doo Police Station	Darwin Central
Katherine Police Station	Alice Springs Fire Station x 4 (A-D Shift)
Nightcliff Police Station	Darwin Fire Station x 4 (A-D Shift)
Nhulunbuy Police Station	Jabiru Fire Station
Palmerston Police Station	Katherine Fire Station
Tennant Creek Police Station	Nhulunbuy Fire Station
Peter McAulay Centre (PMC)	Tennant Creek Fire Station
Operations Support	Yulara Fire Station
Major and Organised Crime	NT Emergency Service (PMC)
Drugs and Intelligence	

## Turning back the clock (continued from page 21)

Humpty Doo members Constable Matthew McKinlay and Constable Bill Foster decided they would help run the initiative to clear up the graffiti and set a day to clean and paint over the graffiti with paint supplied by the owner of the centre.

Officer in Charge of Humpty Doo Police Station, Sergeant Neil Berry said "The officers took a look to the future and decided to tackle the problem sooner rather than later."

The members invited youths from the area to help clean up the mess.

Two youths turned up on the day and worked alongside the members and over the next few hours the numbers swelled to around nine with the building gradually returning to its original state.



Members say there has been no graffiti since that time and the guys describe the initiative as 'turning the clock back to zero'.

"The guys did a great job instigating the campaign and showed great leadership with the kids. I'm very proud of all they achieved on the day and what this will mean to our ongoing relationship with juveniles in the area. Positive results are already beginning to show," Sgt Berry said.



# New Chaplains for the regions

Hayley Dwyer talks to the newest members of Welfare and Chaplaincy Services

## Jeremy Greaves

Jeremy Greaves was recently commissioned as NTPFES Chaplain for Katherine Region.

Jeremy is an Anglican priest whose parish stretches from Adelaide River in the north to Elliot in the south and from WA to Qld.

He is based in Katherine where he has served for the past three years and lives with his wife Josie and three small children: Kate (four), Hannah (two) and Thomas (eight months).

Jeremy grew up and trained in Adelaide where he served two appointments before spending four years in Ceduna on the far west coast of South Australia.



ABOVE L to R: Chaplains Peter Wright and Jeremy Greaves

his wife, Deanne have two children – Brendan (15) and Jayden (13).

Mark decided on chaplaincy with NTPFES based on a strong family connection – both his father and grandfather served as police officers in Queensland for a combined 82 years.

"I have seen the challenges, rewards and effects of the role in sustaining law and order in small town and large city environments," explained Mark.

"This has instilled in me a strong sense of respect, value and honour for those who serve in police and emergency services and any opportunity to help those who give their all in the pursuit of helping others is an opportunity worth grabbing hold of."

"I certainly don't profess to have all the answers but with my fellow Chaplain Andrew want to be committed to walking the journey and being there for anyone in need."



## Mark von Blanckensee

Mark von Blanckensee (pictured above) was recently commissioned as an NTPFES Chaplain for Alice Springs. Originally hailing from south east Queensland, he has called Alice home for the past three years.

Mark is a Minister with the Assembly of God Church. He and

Church. They have four children: Peta (11), Emma (10), Kate (seven) and Jonathan (five).

In October 1999, he and Jenny were asked to assume the role of Senior Ministers, a position they held until December 2004.

During a two year break from full-time ministry, Andrew worked as a security guard conducting mobile patrols, managed the passenger screening point at Alice Springs Airport and worked as a Youth Worker for the Department of Justice at the Juvenile Holding Centre in Alice Springs, a position he still holds.

Andrew has a passion for chaplaincy and for five years was an on-call Chaplain at the Alice Springs Hospital.

Andrew (pictured below) is a member of, and staff member at the Christian Community Centre, an Assembly of God Church. He is also a member of the worship team and supports weekly youth 'Uproar' meetings. In his spare time Andrew plays B-grade men's soccer in the local competition and is an avid fan of many sports.

"We both look forward to meeting you around the traps and to positively partnering with you in any way possible," said Andrew.



## Andrew McAllan

Andrew McAllan joins Mark in providing chaplaincy for the NTPFES in Alice Springs.

Born and raised in Brisbane, he and his wife Jenny are now proud locals who have lived in Alice Springs since 1997, after moving to assume leadership of the Assembly of God

# Richard runs into success at the Masters

By Theresa Kuilboer

***Superintendent Richard Bryson has quietly been making a name for himself as a competitive runner when he's not on duty, but even he must have been pleased with his medal haul at the recent Masters Games in Alice Springs.***

With no less than five gold and two silver medals for his efforts, Richard blitzed the field in most running events in his age group.

He won gold for the half marathon, the Master's Mile, the 1500 metres track event and the ten kilometre road race. He also won gold for the 800 metres, which he ran the day after fronting up and winning the half marathon.

Richard also took out the silver medal in the 3000 metres track and the five kilometre cross country. With such a medal haul it is

surprising to learn that Richard has only been running competitively for the past three years or so.

In the last couple of years, he has taken part in seven marathons around Australia including the Gold Coast marathon, the Sydney marathon and the Melbourne marathon.

In March this year he also competed in the Six Foot Track run in the Blue Mountains, this gruelling 46 kilometre event is from Katoomba to the Jenolan Caves.

In August this year, as a lead up to the Masters Games, Richard placed second in the Alice Springs Marathon.

Richard said his next challenge was the World Police and Fire Games in Adelaide next year where he will



compete in the half marathon and the 10 kilometre road race.

In the meantime, when he's not running, you can find him on the hockey field – and for the rest of the time, he keeps busy in his role as Superintendent, Alice Springs Division.

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## Borrooloola Barra Cup Cricket Competition

***It was on again in November, the third annual Barra Cup Cricket Competition.***

Police members Craig Barrett, Warwick Hulm and Wade Rogers followed suit inspired by the recent adoption of a pilot partnership program incorporating the Borrooloola Health Clinic and the Borrooloola Community Education Centre, deciding to enter a mixed team of Police and Health Clinic

Staff to help strengthen bonds between the two agencies.

Teachers also decided they would like to be a part of the exciting competition, joining the newly named team 'Cops and Carers'.

After being defeated by 12 runs in their first match against Brolgas, Cops and Carers faced up to play the Dingos (from Timber Creek). This game was played in terrible 40-plus degree heat.

Cops and Carers player, Clifford Taylor, top scored with 30 runs, police member Warwick Hulm took two wickets, Wade Rogers took a catch on the boundary to prevent six runs and one of our sponsors Leanne Wallman, a diving one-handed catch with her left hand, to dismiss one of the Dingos' best batsman. Leanne went on to win an award for this catch.

The third and fourth games came against the finals teams, the Barras and Kangaroos with Cops and Carers being dealt a valuable lesson in how to play cricket.

Eventually, the Kangaroos won the competition easily, taking the Barra Cup away from Borrooloola (to Katherine) for the first time since it started in 2004.

Great fun was had by all and all police members would like to thank everyone involved for playing and the support during the competition.

*(Thanks to Craig Barrett for his contribution to this story.)*



# *In the spotlight:* **Constable Michael Kent**

**Theresa Kuilboer** finds out more about Constable Michael Kent



***Constable Michael Kent joined the Northern Territory Police Force two and a half years ago. He has served all that time in Alice Springs which was his first choice as a posting, because he wanted to experience something unique.***

Before joining, he had several small businesses and even worked for an insurance fraud firm in America for a time. He is now attached to the Drugs Intelligence Office in Alice Springs. Michael and his American-born wife Juliette will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary next year.

## **12 Questions...**

***What did you want to be when you grew up?***

I don't know that I really knew what I wanted to be, just as long as whatever I did would allow me to travel as much as possible.

***What is the most significant moment you've experienced since living in the Territory?***

I was born and bred in Sydney and only came to live in the Territory after I was accepted into the NT Police, so the Territory was a bit of a surprise.

I remember being out of the training college for just 24 hours and we had to attend a small disturbance in Darwin. I well-and-truly found out what this job was all about and it still keeps getting better!

***Funniest moment?***

Kylie Anderson was the 2IC out at Papunya where I was relieving for three months and we stopped a vehicle for an RBT.

The reason we stopped them was because they had a canoe on top of the roof of the vehicle which we thought was a bit suspicious out there in the middle of the desert.

When asked why they had a canoe, they asked us why we had an inflatable kangaroo in the rear of our cab. We told them we had exemptions and after all, we are the police and we ask the questions.

We really did have an inflatable kangaroo in the police vehicle. Kylie had just returned from visiting friends in New Zealand and they had asked her to send them photos of a kangaroo when she got back.

So, at Sydney airport when she flew back, she bought this giant inflatable kangaroo, which we nicknamed Herman. He went everywhere with us, and we kept taking photos and sending them to New Zealand.

***Favourite food?***

Almost anything cooked at home and not eaten in a police vehicle.

***What can't you live without?***

Beer after a long day.

***Favourite place?***

Vail, Colorado, USA, which is 9000 feet above sea level and has snow. That's also where I met my wife Juliette almost 20 years ago.

I was working there as a fondue chef – after getting a 30 minute crash

course from a backpacker who was the original fondue chef and who was leaving.

***Last holiday taken?***

Fiji with the wife for two weeks – best Indian curry ever!

***Who is your hero?***

I admire Nelson Mandela enormously because of his principles and his pride. He stuck to his principles despite all he was put through and then after he was released he spent a few years fixing the country and then quietly retired. He wasn't in it for his own glory.

***Who would you invite to dinner?***

Shakespeare and Isaac Asimov.

***Last thing read?***

*Heat, how to stop the planet burning* by George Monbiot.

***What would you do if you won Lotto?***

Buy a yacht and sail around the world.

***Best achievement to date?***

Being able to balance my home life with my work life and still enjoying both at the same time.



